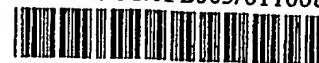


Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/JP2003/011008



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference F-1910	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/011008	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 August 2003 (29.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 27 August 2003 (27.08.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12N 1/00, C02F 11/02		
Applicant KOBELCO ECO-SOLUTIONS CO., LTD.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☒ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) Disc 1, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 10 March 2004 (10.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 02 April 2004 (02.04.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/011008

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☒ The international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the claims:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- pages _____, as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/11008

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-12	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

- Document 1: JP 2003-62559 A (NKK Corp.) March 4, 2003
 Document 2: JP 2002-125657 A (Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.) May 8, 2002
 Document 3: JP 2000-167596 A (Konan Kagaku Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha) June 20, 2000
 Document 4: JP 2000-139449 A (Toray Industries, Inc.) May 23, 2000
 Document 5: JP 9-234060 A (Shinko Pantec Co., Ltd.) September 9, 1997
 Document 6: Xu, Dong et al., Phylogenetic relationships between Bacillus species and related genera inferred from comparison of 3' end 16S rDNA and 5' end 16S-23S ITS nucleotide sequences. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol. 2003 May, Vol. 53 (Pt 3), pp. 695-704
 Document 7: OBOJSKA, A. et al., Orgnophosphonate utilization by the thermophile Geobacillus caldxylosilyticus T20. Appl Environ Microbiol. 2002 Apr, Vol. 68 (4), pp. 2081-2084
 Document 8: MAUGERI, T. L. et al., Three novel halotolerant and thermophilic Geobacillus strains from shallow marine vents. Syst Appl Microbiol. 2002 Oct, Vol. 25 (3), pp. 450-455

The inventions of claims 1-12 are novel and involve an inventive step with respect to the document cited in the international search report (documents 1-8 above). None of the documents cited in the international search report describes nor implies a novel microorganism belonging to the genus Geobacillus capable of producing a solubilization enzyme by which organic solid matters such as organic sludge or biological sludge can be solubilized.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP03/11008

Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

Continuation of Box No. 1, item 2:

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this report was established on the basis that of:
 - a. type of material
 - ☒ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☒ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed
 - ☒ filed together with the international application in computer readable form
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purpose of search and/or examination
 - ☐ received by this Authority as an amendment* on _____
2. ☒ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
3. Additional comments:

** If item 4 in Box No. 1 applies, the listing and /or table(s) related thereto, which form part of the basis of the report, may be marked "superseded".*

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DEC.22.2003

FUJIMOTO & ASSOCIATES
PATENT ATTORNEYS

PCT/JP03/11008

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

FUJIMOTO, Noboru
Sakaisuji-Inabata Bldg. 2F
15-14, Minamimemba 1-chome, Chuo-ku
Osaka-shi, Osaka 542-0081
Japan

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING OF A CHANGE

(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 12 December 2003 (12.12.03)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference F-1910	
International application No. PCT/JP03/11008	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 August 2003 (29.08.03)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:

☒ the applicant ☐ the inventor ☐ the agent ☐ the common representative

Name and Address

SHINKO PANTEC CO., LTD.
4-78, Wakino-hama-cho 1-chome, Chuo-ku
Kobe-shi, Hyogo 651-0072
Japan

State of Nationality
JP

State of Residence
JP

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:

☐ the person ☒ the name ☐ the address ☐ the nationality ☐ the residence

Name and Address

KOBELCO ECO-SOLUTIONS CO., LTD.
4-78, Wakino-hama-cho 1-chome, Chuo-ku
Kobe-shi, Hyogo 651-0072
Japan

State of Nationality
JP

State of Residence
JP

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

3. Further observations, if necessary:

4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:

☒ the receiving Office ☐ the designated Offices concerned
☐ the International Searching Authority ☐ the elected Offices concerned
☐ the International Preliminary Examining Authority ☐ other:

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No. (41-22) 338.90.90

Authorized officer

Hitomi ODAKA (Fax 338 9090)

Telephone No. (41-22) 338 9417